

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

[10] 13. A method as claimed in claim [9] 12, further comprising terminating examination of the entries in the event that the particular entry is not found and all of the entries in the list have been examined.

[11] 14. A method as claimed in claim [9] 12, wherein the accessing and examining steps are omitted when the particular entry is not found.

[12] 15. A method as claimed in claim [9] 12, wherein accessing the particular entry includes reading the entry.

[13] 16. A method as claimed in claim [9] 12, wherein accessing the particular entry includes writing to the entry and the method further comprises imposing a mutex

[14] 17. A method as claimed in claim [9] 12, wherein overwriting the start pointer does not require a mutex.

[15] 18. A method as claimed in claim [9] 12, wherein the computer system is a multi-threaded environment and the overwriting step is performed atomically.

[16] 19. A storage structure comprising
a list of entries, each entry having a next entry pointer and each next entry pointer pointing to another entry such that the next entry pointers together form a closed loop; and
an overwritable start pointer that points to an entry in the list of entries, the start pointer capable of being overwritten to point to an entry other than the entry.

[17] 20. A storage structure as claimed in claim [16] 19, wherein the entry other than the entry is a particular entry that was searched for and found.

[18] 21. A storage structure as claimed in claim [17] 20, wherein the particular entry is searched for by examining the list of entries in turn beginning with an entry pointed to by the start pointer and continuing until the particular entry is found.

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